REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 17, 23, and 27 are objected to due to various informalities: The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected. Thus, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. In view of the amendments to claims 23 and 27, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-20, 29-31, and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly not falling within one of the four statutory categories of invention. In particular, the Examiner contends that "[w]hile the claims recite a series of steps or acts to be performed, a statutory "process" under 35 U.S.C. 101 must (1) be tied to another statutory category (such as a particular apparatus), or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or material) to a different state or thing (Reference the May 15, 2008 memorandum issued by Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examining Policy, John J. Love, titled "Clarification of `Processes' under 35 U.S.C. 101"). The instant claims neither transform underlying subject matter nor positively tie to another statutory category that accomplishes the claimed method steps, and therefore do not qualify as a statutory process" (Office Action, page 3, paragraph 8). Applicants respectfully disagree.

For example, the claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101 since they transform a received document (a particular article) to a watermarked document (i.e., into a

different state or thing). Therefore, the claims satisfy at least the second part of the machine or transformation test. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 14, 19-21, 24, 28-30, 32, and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over WIPO WO 02/17214 to Tian et al. ("Tian") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0116618 to Muratani[1].

Applicants do not acquiesce to this rejection. In order to expedite prosecution, however, Applicants amend claims 1, 21, and 39 by this Amendment to recite, in some variation,

> receiving said document;
> <u>generating an identification number based on said received document</u>;
> generating a seed based on said generated identification number;
> generating a first set of numbers using the generated seed;...

Tian's auxiliary message 102 to be hidden in the media object 100 allegedly teaches the claimed identification number. However, Tian teaches that the auxiliary message 102 is inputted to the encoder along with the media object 100 (Tian, page 5, lines 5-8). That is, the auxiliary message 102 is not generated based on the input media object 100. Similarly, in Muratani, the digital watermark embedding device 1 receives as input an objective content and the watermark (allegedly the claimed identification information) to be embedded into the objective content (Muratani, paragraph [0049]). As such, even Muratani does not teach that its watermark is generated based on the input objective content. In summary, the watermarks in Tian and

[1] Although the statement of rejection lists claim 15 instead of claim 14 in paragraph 10 on page 4 of the Office Action, claim 14 (and not claim 15) is addressed under this rejection in paragraph 18 on page 8.

Muratani are not generated based on the input content to be watermarked. Rather, they are input separately to the encoder/watermarking device.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Tian alone, or in combination with Muratani, does not teach or suggest receiving a document, and generating an identification number based on said received document, as claimed, along with the other features of claims 1, 21, and 39. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6-10, 14, 19, 20, 24, 28-30, and 32 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 3-5, 22, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tian in view of Muratani, and further in view of Sharma *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,329, "Sharma").

Claims 3-5, 22, and 23 depend from claims 1 or 21. Since Sharma does not cure the deficient teachings of Tian and Muratani with respect to claims 1 and 21, claims 3-5, 22, and 23 are patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claims 12, 13, 15, 16, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tian in view of Muratani, and further in view of Senoh (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,121).

Claims 12, 13, 15, 16, and 26 depend from claims 1 or 21. Since Senoh does not cure the deficient teachings of Tian and Muratani with respect to claims 1 and 21, claims 12, 13, 15, 16, and 26 are patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claims 17, 18, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tian in view of Muratani, and further in view of Kim *et al.* ("A Robust Wavelet-Based Digital Watermarking Using Level-Adaptive Thresholding", "Kim").

Claims 17, 18, and 27 depend from claims 1 or 21. Since Kim does not cure the deficient teachings of Tian and Muratani with respect to claims 1 and 21, claims 17, 18, and 27 are patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claim 31 and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tian in view of Muratani, and further in view of Perry (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0012445).

Claims 31 and 33-38 depend from claim 1. Since Perry does not cure the deficient teachings of Tian and Muratani with respect to claim 1, claims 31 and 33-38 are patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Claims 11 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tian in view of Muratani, and further in view of Wei et al. ("Generalized Coiflets: A New Family of Orthogonal Wavelets", "Wei").

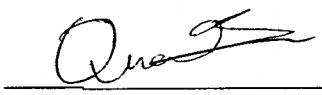
Claims 11 and 25 depend from claims 1 or 21. Since Wei does not cure the deficient teachings of Tian and Muratani with respect to claims 1 and 21, claims 11 and 25 are patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 14, 2009